



Chances are, you are already familiar with the work of Amelia G and Forrest Black, even if you don't know it. You could throw a rock at any magazine stand and hit one they have shot for. Their own magazine, Blue Blood, has been out of print now for many years, but their home on the web is still going strong. Amelia has been writing for and photographing alternative lifestyles since the 80s. She is an expert on all things underground, fun, and spooky. MTV, the New York Times, and countless other organizations have called upon her expertise when doing stories on subjects such as Vampires, Gothic culture, and dark erotica.

Aside from this interview, I first met Amelia and Forrest at a comic convention in the late 90s. I was a little too shy to approach them with the idea of working with them at the time; and it was a total shock to me when Amelia contacted me in 2003 asking if I would like to be a part of the Blue Blood family. We have been working together since 2004. They really believe in what they are doing, and they make it fun while doing it.

Amelia G. of Blue Blood



I can imagine you get a ton of model inquiries a day. What do you usually look for when seeking out new girls to shoot with; where should they send their submissions?

People interested in being photographed can email submit@blueblood.net with either a few jpegs of what they look like or a link to pictures of them, along with info on what they are comfortable with and interested in expressing on camera and where they are located. Of course, it is convenient if someone is local to Hollywood or planning a trip to Los Angeles, but Blue Blood often goes on tour to cities where there are enough people we are interested in shooting, especially if a cool local event gets us involved. We get around 300 model submissions a week, so we have to be very selective about who we choose to work with. I'm more artistically interested in a certain spark than a particular bra size or whatever, so I'd say that if someone really gets our vibe and is into it, then they should write in. Of course, someone who wants to be top priority or has special commercial needs can potentially hire us too. I'm fortunate in that I still only choose to shoot what I find inspiring.

The main things I look for in someone I'm going to shoot are individuality, strength of personality, emotive power, and star quality. I enjoy a lot of over-the-top looks, including mohawks, tattoos, and the classic black hair and heavy eyeliner. Basically, I like people who have unique personal style, not people who need a stylist to make them cool. I'll shoot any body type, long as the person really owns who they are. To me the only solid turn-offs are lack of originality, indifference to art, and people who are not proud of who they are. I like it when people want to shoot because

they really get Blue Blood or they really like Forrest Black's and my work and not just because they know their friends will be impressed. My partner in mischief Forrest Black and I shoot more women than men because there are more venues available to publish photographs of women, but we do shoot both men and women and those in between.

You have shot every magazine known to man. What magazine stands out in your mind for being awesome to work with?

VF Magazine of course! I love you and Benny is awesome!

Dont suppose you would want to mention who was not awesome to work with?

A funny thing about people in the scene who are not awesome is that they don't last. I'm in this for the long haul, and, in my experience, the sucky people can do great for themselves for a hot minute, but they always go extinct. The other day, Forrest Black, Scar 13, and I were sitting around Blue Blood World Headquarters, waiting for a computer process to complete, and we flipped through a magazine which was the only one in the niche anywhere near Blue Blood's circulation back in like 1995 and the back issue still looked good, but it was funny realizing that the crazy guy who ran it once loomed so large in my mind and now his bones are so long buried that it has been forever since I even thought of him. Defunct and forgotten is the future for any of the not awesome people because, at the end of the day, goodness and strength triumphs over evil and dishonesty because most people are at least mostly good.

INTERVIEWS

Are there any plans to bring Blue Blood back into print? Can you still buy old issues of Blue Blood?

The sort of formal business explanation of Blue Blood is a content producer, packager, and publisher. In English, that means that I get to make cool stuff, sometimes hiring teams of creative people, and I either put the cool magazines or web sites or whatever together to be published by Blue Blood or to be published by someone who has contracted Blue Blood. So we kick out print projects from time to time. I've seen back issues of *Blue Blood Magazine* in print

every single day with beautiful artistic counterculture erotica. Membership in the BlueBlood.com mega site includes all of the photographs and stories from Gothic Sluts, Barely Evil, Rubber Dollies, and much much more, including quality erotic fiction from established genre authors and Blue Blood's world famous signature couples photo sets. Many enthusiastic scenesters cut their photographic teeth with Blue Blood, yet the Blue Blood photographers collectively have more coffee table books to their credit than just about any other site on the net. Some of the people who have

is easy for us to handle in-house. So I've been looking into the best way to handle producing them in larger quantities and speeding up and organizing shipping and handling. A few big merch companies have expressed interest, but, if we partner with someone for this, I want to make sure they understand the Blue Blood brand, and some of those sorts of corporate entities make me a bit gunshy. Right now, people can still buy the hoodies at BlueBloodBoutique.com and finer local punk clothing stores.



specifically going for hundreds of dollars on auction sites. Every once in a while, we discover a box and there are some lucky people at the next convention we exhibit at.

Tell me about the websites.

BlueBlood.net features, in addition to the community forums and news, galleries of nightclubs, fandom conventions, concerts, bands, fashion designers, and other entertainment coverage. We provide BlueBlood.net for free for the scene and people can sign up to interact completely for free. Blue Blood.com houses the primary erotic content of the Blue Blood media empire. We update BlueBlood.com

contributed tons to BlueBlood.com include Chad Michael Ward, Lori Mann, Kelly Lind, and Carlos Batts.

I love my Blue Blood hoodie, but I heard that you guys were not printing them anymore! Is all the Blue Blood merch still available? And the doggie shirts too?

The doggie shirts are vital because I love doggies and this way your Pika can be a Blue Blood hottie too! We get our hoodies manufactured punk rock old school. There is a green-haired guy who we will meet behind a nightclub at 3am and swap the cash for the clothes. It feels delightfully illicit, but the demand for the hoodies and such has grown a bit beyond what

I am a huge G'N'R fan, and I know you are too. Did you see them on the new tour, or do you have any interest at all?

Appetite for Destruction changed my life. I used to play that on the radio when I was a deejay, before the band broke big. A listener called in a request for it and I was hooked. The radio station I deejayed at had the *Appetite* record with the original Robert Williams artwork before it got toned down to release the band on a larger scale. That album was honestly one of the key factors in me deciding that I wasn't quite ready for the country club lifestyle I was headed towards at the time.

What other kind of music do you like?

I have eclectic taste in music and can often appreciate the best artists even in a genre which isn't one of my top favorites. What I feel like listening to at any given time is very variable, but some folks in recent rotation on my stereo in the last 24 hours include Nine Inch Nails, Orgy, Eminem, Skold, Elvis Presley, Nation of Fear, Ice-T, and Sisters of Mercy.

I wrote for a bunch of the metal mags near the end of hard rock's heyday. Forrest Black introduced me to rap. Heck, when I lived

Blood is that they are absolutely entitled to the rewards of the larger society. Having unusual hair or being kinky in no way means that you are somehow a second class citizen. Maybe being the daughter of an attorney and a diplomat predisposed me to reject the notion that my purple hair should limit what kind of service I can get in a restaurant. Mainstream prejudice is somewhat regional, so, after having lived all over the world and all over America, I've made Los Angeles my home. I think the key thing about dealing with mainstream prejudice is to simply not accept. Don't

opted and then the original proponents have to decide if they will move on to the next thing or stand their ground. I like what I like because I like it and not just for extremity's sake, so I'm not about to change a whole heck of a lot just because a few mainstream companies have tried to commodify the community I am a part of.

I know you regularly interact with the BlueBlood.net subscribers on the Blue Blood forum. Do you let other people advertise their own sites and photography in the forum?



photography by Forrest Black and Amelia G for Blue Blood

in Georgia and my rusted out old Camaro only got certain country stations in some areas, I even developed a taste for Garth Brooks. Although the way I feel music in my gut, I think my taste is consistent. One of the coolest things about music is that it often goes beyond language, so I'd have to say my favorites are just whatever syncs up right with the rhythms of my body.

You have been photographing and showcasing alternative people since the early '90s. Have you encountered any prejudices from "mainstream" organizations over the years?

To me, one of the most important messages I want people to get from Blue

let the mainstream frame the debate for you. Own who you are. You can dress appropriately for a particular occasion without losing your soul, but, if someone at your responsible job discovers that you sometimes read vampire novels and wear big boots, it is their problem if that troubles them and not yours. Do not permit them to shame you.

Would you say that alternative lifestyles have gotten more mainstream and accepted?

I think certain accessories have made their way from the underground to a more visible position. But fashion is always like that. It starts on the fringe and gets co-

There are always such good intelligent conversations on the Blue Blood forums, I really enjoy them. We have a promotions forum on Blue Blood.net for strictly promotional posts. I'm definitely into cross-promo. Our sort of rule of thumb on the forums is that, if you can link to Blue Blood on the site you want to link on Blue Blood, then you can probably post it, especially if it is a good conversation starter.

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